

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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10

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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R 160916Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO USMISSION GENEVA
SECSTATE WASHDC 5973
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

CONFIDENTIAL SINGAPORE 3877

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: GATT, ETRD
SUBJ: CHAIRMANSHIP OF GATT WP ON EXPORT INFLATION INSURANCE

REF: A. GENEVA 6311, B. STATE 201662

1. DURING INFORMAL CONTACT WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE REGARDING AMBASSADOR DENT'S PROPOSED VISIT, EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF TAN KENG JIN ACCEPTING CHAIRMANSHIP OF GATT WORKING PARTY ON EXPORT INFLATION INSURANCE. DEP. DIRECTOR (TAN SONG CHUAN) STATED THAT TAN KENG JIN HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL CHAIRMANSHIPS BECAUSE IT WAS BELIEVED WITHIN GOS THAT TAN WAS DEVOTING TOO MUCH OF HIS TIME TO MTN AND NOT GIVING SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO HIS COMMITMENTS TO REPRESENT OTHER GOS MINISTRIES AT GENEVA IN ILO, WHO, ETC. DEP. DIRECTOR SAID THAT GOS WAS CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF ADDING THIRD OFFICER TO SINGAPORE'S TWO-MAN MISSION IN GENEVA, BUT UNTIL THEN IT DID NOT WANT TAN ACCEPTING ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE WORK.

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2. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF MTN TO US AND SINGAPORE AND

POINTED OUT THAT WE THOUGHT TAN WOULD MAKE FAIR AND COMPETENT CHAIRMAN OF WORKING PARTY. WHEN EMBOFF INDICATED OUR INTENTION TO WORK TOWARD CONFINING WP ACTIVITIES TO EXPORT INFLATION INSURANCE, DEP. DIRECTOR DID NOT APPEAR TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM.

3. COMMENT: GOS OBJECTIONS TO TAN KENG JIN ACCEPTING CHAIRMANSHIP APPEARS TO BE BASED SOLELY ON BUREAUCRATIC DEMANDS FOR HIS TIME BY OTHER MINISTRIES. EMBOFF RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT GOS DECISION IS FIRM AND UNLIKELY TO BE REVERSED. HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: GENEVA STATE
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